

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**VIRGINIA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**POND**

**CODE 378**

Land Owner/Operator\_\_\_\_\_

County\_\_\_\_\_ SWCD\_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained pond is an asset to the farm. The pond was designed and installed to provide storage of runoff water for beneficial use. Estimated life span of this installation is at least \_\_\_\_\_ years. The life of the pond can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- The pond should be inspected periodically and especially after heavy rains to determine whether it is functioning properly or if repairs are needed.
- The water level established by the outlet structure shall not be manipulated to raise the water level above the planned elevation.
- Appurtenances such as trash racks, outlet structures and gates shall be kept free of trash and replaced when needed. Remove debris that may accumulate at the embankment and immediately upstream or downstream from the basin. Screens and/or rodent guards shall be kept in place. If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized livestock entry.
- Erosion on the slopes of the embankment and in the earth auxiliary spillway shall be filled with suitable material, compacted, seeded and fertilized as needed. Should the upstream face of the embankment erode due to wave action, protection such as riprap may be needed. If seepage through or under the embankment occurs, proper corrective measures shall be taken immediately.
- The vegetative cover of the embankment and earth spillway shall be maintained by mowing and fertilizing when needed. Trees can cause leaks and safety hazards and should not be permitted on the embankment or in the auxiliary spillway. When needed, fencing and water troughs will be provided to protect the pond and vegetation from livestock.

- Periodically inspect the spillways and control gates for proper functioning for their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions in spillways.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Fertilize as needed to maintain a uniform vigorous stand. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to any earthfills, spillways, outlets or other appurtenance.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:\_\_\_\_\_

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